

New State Law Rules in California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Starting July 1, 2011

The CalWORKs time limit clock for adults will change from 60 months to 48 months.

On July 1, 2011, if you are the adult(s) in the case and you already got 48 or more months of cash aid, you will be removed from cash aid. Your children will get aid in the Safety Net Program, if eligible. Time limit exemptions and domestic abuse waivers still apply.

There will be a new CalWORKs time limit and aid cuts for some child-only cases.

On July 1, 2011, if you are the adult in the home and you are:

- A drug or fleeing felon, or avoiding prosecution for a felony charge;
- An undocumented non-citizen;
- Sanctioned for not meeting Welfare-to-Work requirements;
- Timed-out (and your children are getting aid in the Safety Net program); or
- A relative taking care of the children but not receiving cash aid.

Your children's cash aid will be cut after five years on aid, this way:

- After getting 60 total months of cash aid (five years), the aid will be cut by five percent;
- After getting 72 total months of cash aid (six years), the aid will be cut by another five percent for a total ten percent; and
- After getting 84 total months of cash aid (seven years), the aid will be cut by another five percent for a total 15 percent.

If you are the adult in the home and you are getting Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP), your children's cash aid will not be cut because of this new rule. All adults in the home must be getting SSI/SSP to be excluded from this rule.

You will get a notice of action 30 days before the cash aid cuts happen telling you what your cash aid will be.

New Welfare-to-Work Changes

If you have a child between the ages of 12 and 23 months, you will be excused from Welfare-to-Work activities. This exemption will last until June 30, 2012 or until the child turns two, whichever comes first. In some counties, this exemption may be offered to clients with children up to 35 months of age. If your county has extended this exemption you will be sent a written notice.

You may also be exempt if you have two or more children under the age of six years old. This exemption will last until June 30, 2012 or until you do not have two children under age six, whichever comes first.

If you meet any of these exemptions, you will be excused from Welfare-to-Work activities. You can volunteer for Welfare-to-Work activities if your county has enough money to provide all of your needed supportive services, like transportation, child care, work clothing or tools, books, and supplies that are included in your approved Welfare-to-Work plan.

These exemptions stop your CalWORKs 48-month time clock. If you are currently sanctioned but are now eligible for one of these exemptions, your sanction will stop and you will get your part of your family's cash aid back.
